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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SPEND THEIR SPRING BREAK VOLUNTEERING IN MEXICO

UCSC Students Forgo Traditional Spring Break to Build House in Mexico

SACRAMENTO - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) *Spotlight* features 51 students from the University of California, Santa Cruz. These dedicated students spent their spring break helping families in Tecate, Mexico build a brand new house. In addition, the students worked in the community repairing roofs, digging trenches, installing toilets and showers, and painting houses.

The students spent the week sleeping on the floor of a community center that lacked indoor plumbing until they installed it themselves. Having become a part of the community, they spent their down time playing soccer and Frisbee with town residents and helping a group of children with a school art project.

The residents of Tecate were not the only people that benefited. Many of the students felt they got as much out of the trip as the people they helped. Both the students and community residents will remember this experience for years to come.

"These students are shining examples of the leaders of tomorrow," Interim Executive Director of GO SERV, David Muraki said. "While other students vacationed and relaxed during their spring break, these students spent their break building a house and improving the living conditions of the families in Tecate."

The weekly GO SERV Spotlight recognizes people and programs making a difference in their communities through service and volunteerism.

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